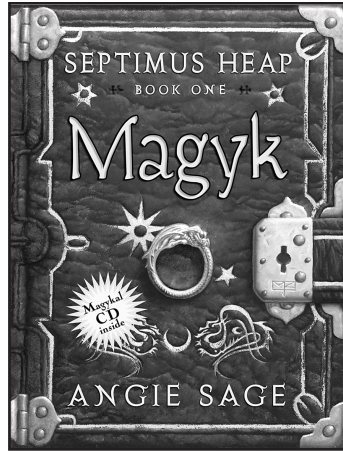


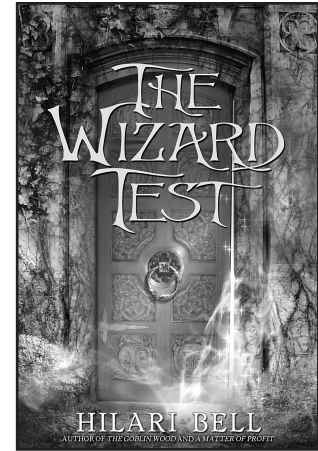
Wolf Brother
Chronicles of Ancient Darkness

By Michelle Paver
Tr 0-06-072825-6 • \$16.99
Lb 0-06-072826-4 • \$17.89
CD 0-06-075838-4 • \$27.95
Ages: 10 up • Grades: 5 up



Septimus Heap Book One:
Magyk

By Angie Sage
Tr 0-06-057731-2 • \$16.99 (\$21.99)
Lb 0-06-057732-0 • \$17.89 (\$24.89)
CD 0-06-076083-4 • \$27.95 (\$39.95)
Ages: 9 up • Grades: 4 up
Katherine Tegen Books



The Wizard Test

By Hilari Bell
Tr 0-06-059940-5 • \$15.99 (\$22.99)
Lb 0-06-059941-3 • \$16.89 (\$23.89)
Ages: 10 up • Grades: 5 up
Eos

More Fantasy Books from HarperCollins Children's Books

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

By Jules Verne
Tr 0-688-10535-1 • \$24.99 (\$33.00)
Books of Wonder

Abhorsen

By Garth Nix
Tr 0-06-027825-0 • \$17.99 (\$26.99)
Lb 0-06-027826-9 • \$18.89 (\$28.89)
Pb 0-06-052873-7 • \$7.99 (\$11.99)
Eos

Archer's Goon

By Diana Wynne Jones
Tr 0-06-029889-8 • \$16.99
Pb 0-06-447356-2 • \$5.99
Greenwillow Books

Coraline

By Neil Gaiman
Illustrated by Dave McKean
Tr 0-380-97778-8 • \$15.99 (\$23.99)
Lb 0-06-623744-0 • \$17.89 (\$26.89)
Pb 0-380-80734-3 • \$5.99 (\$8.99)
CD 0-06-050454-4 • \$18.00 (\$26.95)

The Emerald City of Oz

By L. Frank Baum
Illustrated by John R. Neill
Tr 0-688-11558-6 • \$24.99 (\$34.99)
Books of Wonder

The Goblin Wood

By Hilari Bell
Tr 0-06-051371-3 • \$16.99 (\$25.99)
Lb 0-06-051372-1 • \$17.89 (\$26.89)
Pb 0-06-051373-X • \$6.99 (\$9.99)
Eos

A Hat Full of Sky

By Terry Pratchett
Tr 0-06-058660-5 • \$16.99
Lb 0-06-058661-3 • \$17.89
CD 0-06-074768-4 • \$34.95

The Merlin Conspiracy

By Diana Wynne Jones
Tr 0-06-052318-2 • \$16.99
Lb 0-06-052319-0 • \$17.89
Pb 0-06-052320-4 • \$6.99
Greenwillow Books

The Oracle Betrayed: Book One of The Oracle Prophecies

By Catherine Fisher
Tr 0-06-057157-8 • \$16.99
Lb 0-06-057158-6 • \$17.89
Pb 0-06-057159-4 • \$6.99
Greenwillow Books

Warriors #1: Into the Wild

By Erin Hunter
Tr 0-06-000002-3 • \$15.99 (\$23.99)
Lb 0-06-052548-7 • \$16.89 (\$25.89)
Pb 0-06-052550-9 • \$5.99 (\$8.99)

Warriors #2: Fire and Ice

By Erin Hunter
Tr 0-06-000003-1 • \$15.99 (\$23.99)
Lb 0-06-052556-8 • \$16.89 (\$25.89)
Pb 0-06-052559-2 • \$5.99 (\$8.99)

The Wee Free Men

By Terry Pratchett
Tr 0-06-001236-6 • \$16.99
Lb 0-06-001237-4 • \$17.89
Pb 0-06-001238-2 • \$6.99
CD 0-06-056625-6 • \$29.95



Visit our website at www.harperteacher.com and sign up to Be a Harper Teacher! Click on "Free Newsletter and Contests."

 HarperCollins *Children's Books*

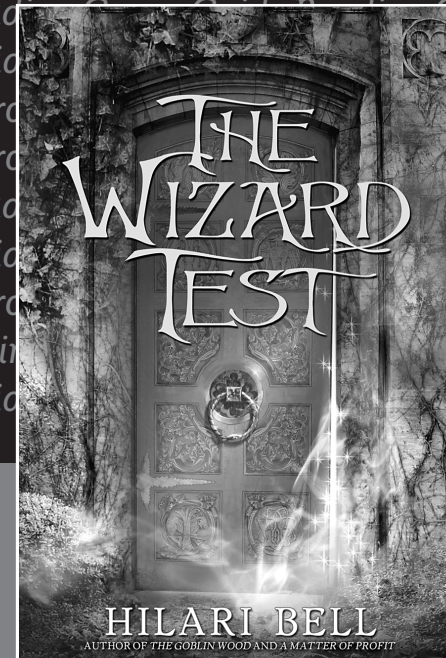
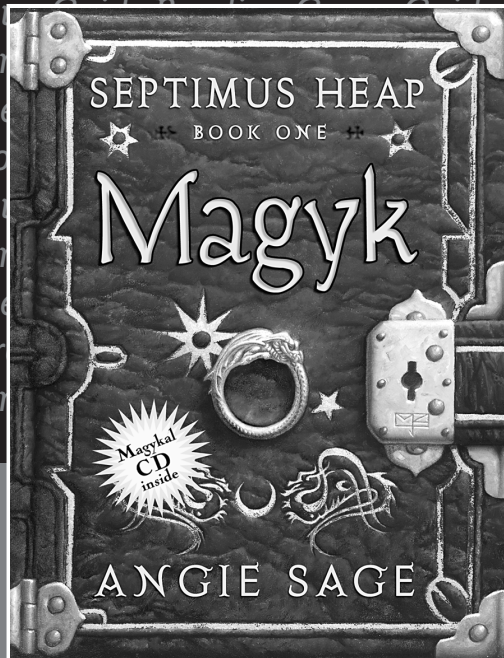
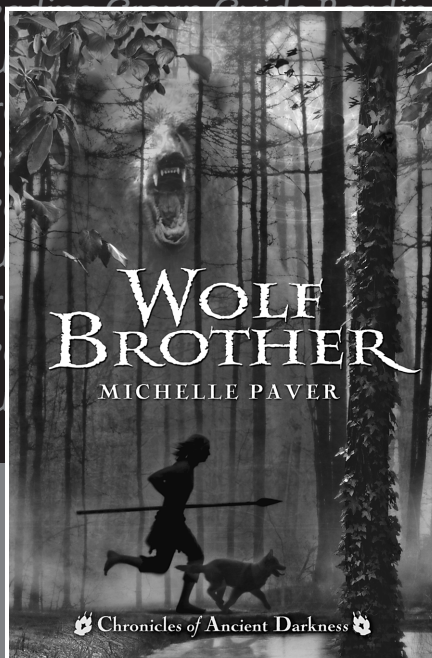
 HarperChildren's Audio

1350 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

Reading group guide prepared by Ruth E. Cox, PhD, the University of Houston-Clear Lake, Adjunct Faculty.
To order, contact your local bookstore or distributor. Prices subject to change without notice.

Fantasy Reading Group Guide

Middle Grade Fiction



Michelle Paver's

Wolf Brother

Chronicles of Ancient Darkness

Angie Sage's

Septimus Heap Book One: Magyk

Hilari Bell's

The Wizard Test

Fantasy conjures up visions of magic, wizards, demon spirits, imaginary places, and battles of good versus evil—in other words, elements, happenings, and settings that are not possible in our world, as we know it. Perhaps that is why readers enjoy fantasy—both to escape and to find themselves. The reader can become the wizard who vanquishes the dragon, leaving the problems of the real world behind. But the reader can also relate to the trials that fantasy characters must endure before they succeed and, perhaps, even use some of these strategies to deal with real-life problems.

Septimus Heap Book One: Magyk

By Angie Sage

On the same night that Silas Heap's seventh son, Septimus, is pronounced dead at birth, Silas comes across an abandoned baby girl in the Forest. The Heap family take her in to raise as their own, unaware that she is the Royal Princess. Ten years later, the Supreme Custodian and his hired Assassin, who has been searching for the baby now named Jenna, have discovered her whereabouts. To save Jenna's life, the Heaps must take the Princess deep into the marshes to hide. Escaping with the Heaps are Marcia, the ousted ExtraOrdinary Wizard, and Boy 412, an unwilling participant from the Young Army. But fate has placed Boy 412 with the fleeing wizards for a reason.

Pre-reading Activity

Discuss how a book's cover art may predict the story or how it may be misleading. Examine the cover of *Magyk* and discuss the symbols and other illustrations featured. Have students write a description of what these items may represent.

Discussion Questions

1. Marcia, the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, leaves a baby girl in the Forest for Silas Heap to find. Why do you think Marcia chooses Silas as the wizard to raise this child? Is there something unique about Silas or his family that causes her to make this decision?
2. A hired Assassin discovers what the Princess looks like and where she has been living. If you accidentally discovered Jenna's true identity, would you tell anyone? If so, which character in *Magyk* would you confide your knowledge to and why?
3. DomDaniel thinks his inept Apprentice is important in a grandiose plan to regain his position as the ExtraOrdinary Wizard. What does DomDaniel think he knows about the Apprentice that makes this boy valuable to his plans? Do you think DomDaniel is correct in his assumption? If you knew the Apprentice's identity, would you tell him or his Master?

4. Jenna wants to know what happened when DomDaniel climbed the Wizard Tower and "disappeared." Why do people, even the wizards, think he is gone? Would you have believed his disappearance if you had seen what Alther Mella did from atop the tower?
5. While walking through the marsh, Silas falls and is quickly pulled down into the bog. If you were Silas and knew what was down under the mud yanking on your hair, would you have panicked? What do you think would have happened if the Boggart hadn't used his unique method to release Silas?
6. When Boy 412 gets lost in the marsh fog, he falls headfirst down a hole and finds a mysterious object at the bottom. Does he share his discovery with anyone else? Why do you think he makes the choice he does?
7. If you found a Magyk book, what kinds of things might you find in the pockets? If you made a Magyk book, what types of items would you put in the pockets to imprint your spells?
8. When Simon, the eldest Heap son, disappears, Silas is frantic. Where is Simon? Were you surprised by Simon's betrayal? How would you have reacted in Simon's place, considering his role in the Heap family?
9. Silas asks Morwenna, a Wendron Witch, to help him find Simon. Why does Morwenna agree to help? If you were in her place, would you have felt a debt to Silas? Is Sarah rightfully bewildered by Morwenna's comment about the other three Heap children who are not present? Does Morwenna know something Sarah doesn't?
10. Boy 412 agrees to become Marcia's Apprentice and is told that in return for his consent, he can make a request of her. What does he request of the reinstated ExtraOrdinary Wizard? Do you think the answer will change his life? If you could place a different *Magyk* character in Boy 412's place, who would it be and what would you have him or her ask for?

**Visit www.septimusheap.com
to learn more about this exciting new series!**

The Wizard Test

By Hilari Bell

On his fourteenth birthday, Dayven passes the wizard test, although he swore to his mother on her deathbed that he would never become a wizard. At the request of the Lordowner, Dayven agrees to become an apprentice to spy on the wizards. He is apprenticed to Reddick, an eccentric wizard who takes him into the city of the enemy, the Cenzar, where Dayven becomes friends with a young Cenzar soldier. Surprised by the joy he feels while using his powers, Dayven is caught between the soldiering career his mother chose for him and the destiny his powers demand. Dayven must choose between what he swore he would do and what his heart tells him is right.

Pre-reading Activity

Brainstorm for ideas that describe how a wizard might look and act. How does he or she dress? What might you find in the pockets of a wizard's robe? How do you recognize a wizard? Ask students to create a wizard description, listing attributes for comparison with the actual wizards in *The Wizard Test*.

Discussion Questions

1. Dayven becomes very angry when he hears the whispers of "wizard born." Why does this two-word whisper elicit such a strong response in Dayven? If you were in Dayven's place, would you be afraid of what "wizard born" might mean when you turned fourteen? Why or why not?
2. No one speaks of what happens during the wizard test, so Dayven is unprepared for what occurs. How does he react to the "show" the wizard puts on for his benefit? Would you have been able to recognize the "real" magic that occurred?
3. Dayven is taken aback when Lord Enar asks him how he feels about his father's death. Why does Lord Enar ask this pointed question before he tells Dayven what he wants him to do? How would you have reacted in Dayven's place?

4. Dayven fears he will break his promise to his mother if he becomes a wizard apprentice. What was his promise? Do you think it is possible to be an apprentice to a wizard and not break such a promise, considering what Master Senna says about knowing magic (p. 26)?
5. Dayven is assigned as an apprentice to Reddick, a quite unique wizard. Consider your initial responses to the Pre-reading Activity. Does Reddick fit your description of a wizard? Why or why not?
6. Dayven is able to see his cousin, Soren, in his visions but not Vadeen (pp. 120–122). What does Reddick tell Dayven about the use of visions? Would you like to have Dayven's power of vision? If so, who do you think is the first person who would appear in your inner vision and why?
7. When Dayven uses his magic to heal a dying mare, Vadeen tells him that it must be wonderful to be a wizard. Why does Dayven respond with "It *would* be" (p. 127)? Do you think he can control whether or not he is a wizard? Would it be right for him to deny his gift?
8. After his travels with Reddick, Dayven has a much broader picture of the war between the Tharn and the Cenzar. How does Dayven justify betraying his people while still wanting to be a Tharn Guardian (pp. 150–151)? Do you agree with his reasoning? Would you have made a similar decision?
9. In his reporting to the Lordowner, do you think Dayven stays "within the technical definition of honor" (pp. 155–156)? With the broader view of the war and its effects in mind, do you think he truly is betraying the Tharn? Would the Lordowner agree with Dayven's broader view of the war? Why or why not?
10. Dayven quietly uses his magic to heal the wounded soldiers. How does he react when the surgeon says magic cannot be used to heal the enemy, including the severely wounded Vadeen (pp. 162–165)? What does Dayven do and how does it change his destiny? Do you think Dayven, knowing what he now does about the war and who he has become, has any other option?